

## SOUNDING OFF

### Let's buy the cranberry bogs

Editor, Duxbury Clipper:

Voters, please attend town meeting beginning this Saturday March 11 and support articles 27 and 28 sponsored by the Community Preservation Committee. These articles request voter approval to use Community Preservation funds to purchase about 60 acres of land for conservation purposes and to protect magnificent scenic holdings such as those around Round Pond. Information sheets with details on the parcels will be available at town meeting.

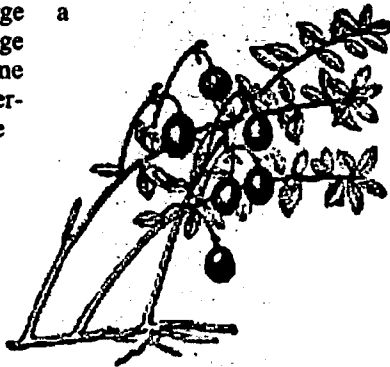
Cranberry bogs are a large part of our agricultural heritage in Duxbury. It has become increasingly difficult for cranberry growers to turn a profit these last few years, due to the competition from larger and more efficient bogs in other parts of the country. Some local growers are selling their bogs rather than continuing to farm the land. While parts of parcels are wetlands, some is upland and may be used for

other purposes, possibly destroying the scenic vistas.

Bogs provide a safe open place for many residents to walk. Access to these properties may be denied if they are sold and used for other purposes.

In prior years, the Town has purchased bogs and then leased them to growers. Over the years, this has resulted in the town making a substantial profit from the crops. At this point in the cranberry product cycle,

a



Cranberry

profit for the town is not expected, but that could change in the future.

By this purchase, this beautiful and valuable land will be retained in perpetuity for the use and enjoyment of residents, there is a productive use of the land and there are no ongoing maintenance costs to the town. The taxes presently collected by the town on the land are very small, due to the agricultural use. The proposed purchase price is only a small fraction of the annual CPA funding.

As you drive around town, you can't help but notice the changes happening. The opportunity to preserve the Duxbury we cherish, and made us want to live here, often comes but once.

I urge you to come to town meeting, listen to the information about these parcels and I am confident you will support preserving this scenic and historic part of our town by voting yes on articles 27 and 28.

Ed McGlinchey  
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